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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
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COUNTRY Siam

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SUBJECT The Political Situation - Views of
Nai Tieng Sirikhan

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SUPPLEMENT

1. Nai Tieng stated that there is a growing belief, which he shares, that Siam now can be "saved" only by a benevolent dictatorship. He described himself as branded by Premier Thamrong and other members of the present government as a "leftist". Tieng said that he has no faith in the present government or anything except strong-man rule which can clean up corruption. Although evasive about committing himself, he seemed to be agreeable to the idea that Nai Pridi and Luang Adul take over as a 'strong-man team'.
2. Tieng expressed the view that the new Prachachon /People's/ Party was due to break up since in its present form it is merely an artificial grouping of political individualists. He interpreted Pridi's support of the Party as carrying out Nai Thong-in Phuriphat's theory that Nai Liang Chayakan (leader of the Party) makes a strong enemy but a weak friend, so that Pridi is merely taking him out of the opposition ranks. Tieng stated that if Pridi is supporting the Party financially (as has been rumored frequently in the press), he is doing it through someone else's funds and not his own or the government's or the Free Thai's.
3. Tieng is an enthusiastic supporter of the cooperative theory and sees the country's only salvation in education and the economic uplifting of the masses through cooperatives. He is obsessed by what he seems to believe is a personal revelation - that Siam is actually a nation of 17,000,000 farmers and not just a group of several thousand politicians in Bangkok. He personally believes that if he openly advocated his conviction that the Ministry of Defense's appropriation of 44 per cent of the total budget be given to the Ministry of Education, he would be assassinated.
4. Tieng stated that as a result of the 'black record' of the present Parliament, he personally would be unable to win re-election if an election were held now. Heretofore he had been assured of about 80 per cent of the total vote in his constituency.

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